

# Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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## State service moves Baptists toward goals

By Marty Croll

The appointment of 24 new missionaries in Biloxi April 10 brings Southern Baptists that much closer to their goal of stationing 5,000 missionaries in 125 overseas countries by the year 2000.

That goal is a key part of Bold Mission Thrust, Southern Baptists' 25-year strategy to tell the Christian message to every person on earth by the end of the century. With nearly 14.2 million members, the Southern Baptist Convention is America's largest Protestant denomination.

The convention's channel for ministry and evangelism outside the United States is the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. It coordinates the work of more than 3,450 missionaries (including 265 Mississippians) in 103 countries, making it the largest overseas mission force among Protestant denominations.

"The primary purpose of the Foreign Mission Board's work is evangelism that results in churches," explained R. Keith Parks, the agency's president since 1980. "I have the privilege of being involved in missions in a day when more people are responding to the gospel... than at any other time in human history."

The board's current operating budget is \$136 million money that comes from individual Southern Baptist churches around the country. In 1983, for example, Mississippi Baptists in 1,950 churches contributed \$6.1 million for the support of overseas missionaries and their work.

The Foreign Mission Board appointed 357 new missionaries during 1983, second only to the 406 appointed the year before. But that was far



The Mississippi Gulf Coast Coliseum in Biloxi is the site of a Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board appointment service, April 10, 1984. This service will commission a total of 24 persons for foreign missions. Baptists from across the

state—and Louisiana and Alabama—are expected to fill the 11,000-seat complex for the Tuesday evening service. Program for the service is on page 3.

## Baptist protest against lottery draws threats

By David Wilkinson

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Producers of the television series "Lottery!" have threatened legal action against a Southern Baptist Convention agency and one of its staff members who four months ago protested the show's "pro-gambling propaganda."

But Larry Braidfoot, director of Christian citizenship development for the Christian Life Commission, and Foy Valentine, executive director of the Nashville-based agency, have responded the threat is only a "transparent publicity gimmick" aimed at increasing the program's poor ratings.

Rick Rosner, executive producer of the prime time series, told Braidfoot in a tersely-worded telegram if the commission's protest resulted in "prejudicing the commercial value and future of our series," then all "appropriate legal action" would be taken against Braidfoot and the agency.

Both Braidfoot and Valentine, however, questioned the timing of

Rosner's remarks, pointing out the telegram came more than four months after Braidfoot's criticism of the program and coincided with the reappearance of the series on the air.

The series was temporarily dropped after a short run last fall. "Now the producers, not ABC-TV, are trying to manufacture some news about their still ugly child," said Valentine.

In a letter last October to ABC President Frederick Pierce, Braidfoot charged by airing the new show the network had "either intentionally or unwittingly become the advocate of legalized gambling."

He pointed out Rosner had been quoted in a TV trade magazine as saying the series "will do a 60-minute commercial once a week for having a lottery."

Braidfoot also called on Southern Baptists to register their disapproval with the show's sponsors and SBC-TV.

(Wilkinson writes for the Christian Life Commission.)

short of the 817 requested for the year by missionaries on the field.

"Requests for seminary-trained missionaries stand at an all-time high," Parks said. "I am convinced more missionaries are coming as more Southern Baptists are praying for the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers."

Overseas churches related to Southern Baptist mission work baptized 146,149 believers and increased their membership to 1.7 million during 1983. Missionaries and overseas Baptists teamed up to establish 3,414 new churches, mission congregations and "preaching points."

Southern Baptists and their overseas counterparts are ahead in their efforts to achieve some Bold Mission Thrust numerical challenges, but behind in others. At their current pace, Southern Baptists easily should have 5,000 missionaries in 125 countries by the year 2000. And volunteer participation is well ahead of the pace to reach 10,000 a year by the end of the century.

Baptists are behind in other categories. To reach numerical challenges, the number of overseas churches will have to increase from 13,586 in 1983 to 75,840 in 2000; chapels and churches combined, from 30,581 to 184,890; Baptist membership, from 1.7 million to 8.96 million; and annual baptisms, from 146,149 to 807,470.

Southern Baptist missions made contributions in other areas in 1983, including:

—education: Some 495 missionary teachers worked beside 4,229 national teachers in 650 seminaries, theological institutes, colleges and universities, and elementary and secondary schools in 62 countries. Altogether, they taught nearly 144,000 students. Eighty-two missionaries and 67 nationals worked in student evangelism.

—publications and broadcasting: Ninety missionaries helped 745 nationals produce almost 2.9 million books, 5 million periodicals and 9.8 million tracts. Another 59 missionaries and 135 nationals helped prepare radio and television broadcasts that reached 115 million.

—medicine: One hundred seventy-nine missionary physicians, dentists, nurses and other medical specialists worked in 21 hospitals, 113 clinics and several mobile clinics in 35 countries. Some 144,469 inpatients and nearly 1.3 million outpatients were treated in those institutions.

—social ministries and hunger relief: Missionaries administered \$587,858 in general relief funds and more than \$6.8 million in hunger funds during the year. "The ability to administer those funds responsibly and in ways that would contribute to the advance of the gospel represents one of the highlights of 1983," said Charles W. Bryan, the board's head of overseas operations. Missionaries

and overseas Baptists helped nearly 337,000 people in community centers and children's homes, providing shelter, material aid or practical training in such areas as literacy and nutrition.

More than 4,700 volunteers from the United States assisted missionaries for terms ranging from a week to two years.

Regardless of the kinds of ministries, Parks said, the primary motive of every Southern Baptist missionary is to spread Christ's gospel and his love and to lead people to commit their lives to him.

The Foreign Mission Board dates back to 1845 when the Southern Baptist Convention organized in Augusta, Ga. Richmond, Va., was designated the home for the board. Nearly 140 years later, a Richmond staff of almost 400 coordinates the work of missionaries.

An 80-member board of directors representing 26 state Baptist conventions makes budget and policy decisions, appoints new missionaries and directs the work of the home office staff.

The board meets eight times a year, adopting a budget in October and electing officers in April. The current chairman is Gene Triggs, a Baptist layman from Yazoo City. He is a former president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

(Marty Croll writes for the Foreign Mission Board.)

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# Editorials..... by don mcgregor

## Missionary appointments in Mississippi

The Foreign Mission Board appointment service that will be held in Coast Coliseum on the night of April 10 will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience for many Mississippians.

Once each year the Foreign Mission Board moves its appointment service outside of Richmond, Va., its headquarters city, so that Baptists across the nation might have a chance to be a part of the experience. There is not much likelihood that such a service will be back to Mississippi for several generations.

There is a possibility of four Mississippi couples being appointed among the 12 couples who are scheduled for appointment that

night. The service will begin at 6:45 p.m., and the 11,000-seat coliseum should be filled.

Mississippi Baptists have long been known for their support of missions endeavors. Of the 3,450 missionaries now under appointment by the Foreign Mission Board, 265 are known to have some ties to Mississippi. That is almost eight percent of the total.

Many years ago I attended such a service in Dallas, Texas. I plan to attend this one. This is an occasion when church groups all over the state should make arrangements to take whatever steps are necessary to get sizeable numbers there. The tes-

timonies of those to be appointed will be worth the trip if there were no other facet to the service.

All who attend these services say that they are very rich experiences. Young people particularly should be encouraged to go, for there is no way of measuring what effect it might have on their lives. It is very likely that a number of future missionaries will make their decisions at the service in Biloxi on April 10. We cannot afford not to be a part of the Lord's plan as he is preparing those who he plans to use in missions work.

This is a rare opportunity. It probably is an only opportunity. It is the heart of Southern Baptist missions. Don't miss it.

## Promote the Cooperative Program

The Year of the Cooperative Program in Mississippi was launched on April 1. April 15 will be observed throughout the Southern Baptist Convention as Cooperative Program Sunday.

A packet of material is in the hands of church leaders all across the state that was distributed by the Department of Stewardship and Cooperative Program Promotion. John Alexander is the director of the department, and Julius Thompson is the consultant in the department. Thompson is also state director for Planned Growth in Giving, the stewardship program that is designed to provide the financial support that is needed to bring successful results in Bold Mission Thrust.

For 59 years the Cooperative Program has been the key that has made Southern Baptists a missionary people. Through the ministry of the Cooperative Program we all participate in missions endeavors throughout Mississippi, all across the United States, and completely encircling the earth. There is no other way this could be accomplished so effectively, and we have no choice but to do the best we can. This mandate came directly from the Lord himself as he prepared to leave the work that he had established in the hands of those who had followed him and who would follow him throughout all the ages to come.

We are missionaries. We are missionaries where we live, for the witness to our own communities is in our hands. We are also missionaries on a

worldwide basis, for the Cooperative Program is missions in action. It is the trigger that sets in operation the worldwide missions explosion.

The packet contains suggestions for helping to promote the Year of the Cooperative Program. Perhaps every individual church will want to use the materials sent. Perhaps there are churches that would prefer to determine their own way of being a part of that promotion. But the Cooperative Program is vital to what we are trying to do as Southern Baptists. We need to continue to tell the story of its continuing ministry to succeeding generations as they come along. Otherwise the story will be forgotten.

Promote the Year of the Cooperative Program. Give special recognition to the Cooperative Program on April 15.

## Guest opinion . . .

### Children can understand

By William M. Pinson Jr.

"Children are an heritage of the Lord" (Psalm 127:3).

In a Sunday morning worship service the pastor shared a time with the children in the service. As the small children made their way from the pews to the pulpit to gather around the pastor, I wondered what kind of children's sermon he would have. Something cute? Something simple? Maybe a character story?

I WAS surprised when he held up a bulletin insert on the Cooperative Program and began to share with them about the Cooperative Program. I'd never heard anyone attempt to explain the Cooperative Program to a large group of preschool children. I wondered how he would ever communicate something this complex. But he accomplished his purpose in a beautiful way.

He talked about people and need.

He reduced multiple-million dollar budgets to terms that the children could understand—weekly allowances.

While the children were returning to their places I pondered the importance of what I had experienced. "If small children can grasp the importance of the Cooperative Program, that means anyone can. Our education on the Cooperative Program should include all ages. Furthermore, any worship service can have a time to highlight the importance of missions and Cooperative Program support. We can do more than we are doing to help people understand the Cooperative Program."

Could you explain to a six-year-old what the Cooperative Program is? Could you communicate to a seven-year-old how important the Coopera-

THE GRACE OF GIVING: MESSAGES ON STEWARDSHIP, by Stephen Olford; Baker Book House; 124 pages; paperback, \$4.95.

Here is a book of stewardship sermons from a preacher's preacher. Those who have heard or have read author Stephen Olford know that his style involves neat, alliterative outlines and carefully detailed subpoints. This book follows that pattern.

Olford explores the Old Testament background for tithing, the New Testament basis for giving, and the spiritual blessings of being a Christian steward. Olford carefully exegeses each of his texts and illustrates his major theses. He suggests that stewardship involves more than giving to the local church and mission projects and includes giving to our

needy brothers and sisters.

Olford handles a very sensitive subject well and provides a pattern for preachers who want to preach on the grace of giving. Reviewed by Alan Day, Pastor, First, McComb.

INTRODUCTION TO EVANGELISM, by Delos Miles; Broadman Press, 1983; 386 pages; hardback, \$17.95.

Here is a book that is sure to find its way into college and seminary classrooms as well as the studies of pastors and evangelists. The author is professor of evangelism at Southeastern Seminary and has been director of evangelism for the general board of the South Carolina Convention.

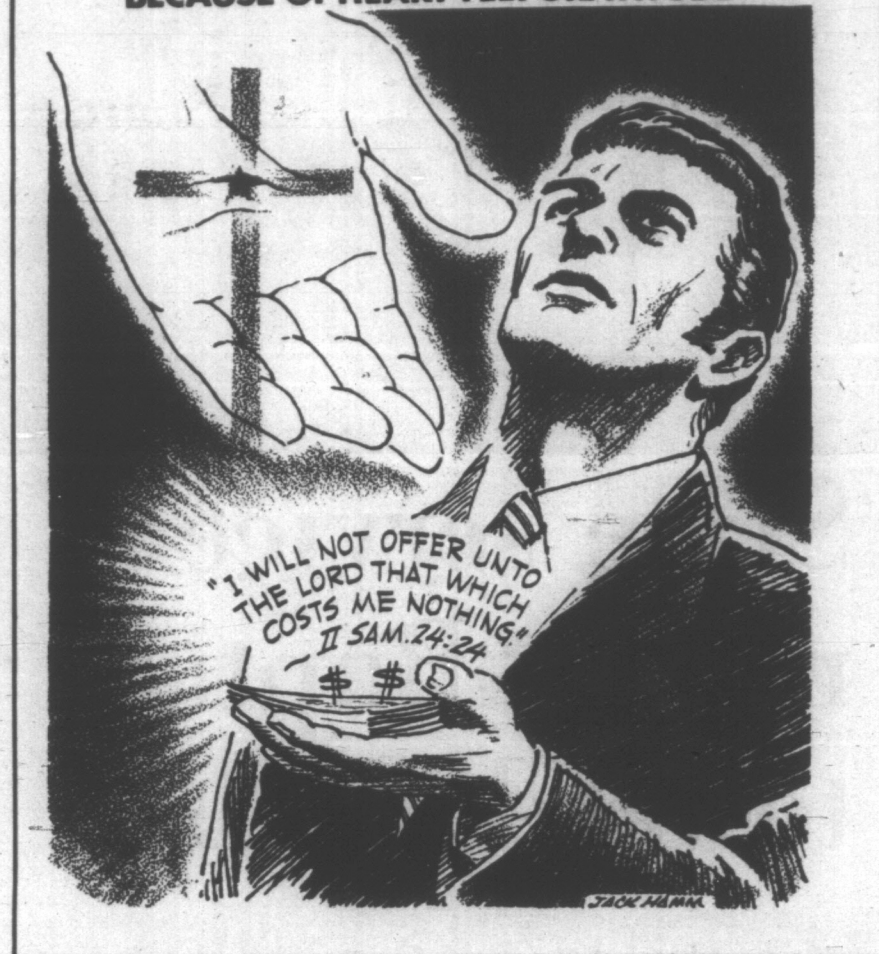
This book is scholarly. Miles takes an eclectic approach, draws from many sources, and documents his statements well. Though it is written as a textbook, there is a sermonic flair in the presentation. The preacher will find a wealth of sermon materials on the subject of evangelism as well as other related topics.

Miles accomplishes one of his major objectives in providing motivation and inspiration for personal evangelism. The reader will feel that he is in his own personal evangelism conference as he digests the contents.

The book moves beyond theoretical and is very practical. It includes how to's on bus ministry, television ministry, revival preparation, and personal witnessing.

A devotional quality also comes through in this book. The person and work of Christ form the rationale for evangelism. The chapter on prayer is worth the price of the book. Miles has made a worthy contribution to the field of evangelism.—Reviewed by Alan Day, pastor, First Church, McComb.

## BECAUSE OF HEART-FELT GRATITUDE



## Book Reviews

### The Baptist Record

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## Appointment service Foreign Mission Board Southern Baptist Convention

Tuesday, April 10, 1984

6:45 p.m.

Gene Triggs, chairman, presiding

Music for worship ..... Instrumentalists and combined choirs  
Welcome and Introduction  
Processional Hymn ..... "We've A Story To Tell"  
Scripture and Prayer ..... Larry W. Kennedy  
Mississippi  
Report of the President ..... R. Keith Parks  
Special Music  
"Gifts of Life" ..... Red and Blankenship  
Report of Human Resources Committee ..... William H. Crouch  
N.C.  
Presentation of missionary candidates ..... Harlan E. Spurgeon  
vice president, office of human resources  
Louis R. Cobbs  
director, personnel selection department  
Missionary testimonies  
Appointment of missionaries  
Prayer of dedication ..... Ron Herrod  
Louisiana  
Presentation of certificates ..... Parks  
Charge to missionaries ..... Parks  
Hymn of commitment ..... "Wherever He Leads I'll Go"  
Benediction ..... W. W. Walley  
Mississippi  
Postlude ..... "God of Grace and God of Glory"

## Appointment service to highlight FMB meeting

BILOXI, Miss.—More than 11,000 members of the 2,000 Southern Baptist churches throughout the state are expected to fill the Gulf Coast Coliseum Tuesday, April 10, for a service in which the denomination will name 24 people as missionaries to nine foreign countries.

The appointment services will highlight a three-day meeting of the 82 members of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, who will convene at the Gulf Coast Coliseum and Convention Center in Biloxi, Miss., April 9-11.

Once a year, the board holds an appointment service in a state other than Virginia, where its offices are located in Richmond. This year its host is the Mississippi Baptist Convention, an organization of more than 638,000 Southern Baptists.

Southern Baptists send more missionaries overseas than any other Protestant group, engineering a growing foreign missions enterprise of more than 3,450 missionaries, including 265 Mississippians.

More than a fourth of Mississippi's population is Southern Baptist.

The appointment service will begin at 6:45 p.m. with the music of 1,000 Mississippi Southern Baptist voices and a parade of flags from the 103 countries where the denomination maintains missionary presence. The service will also feature testimonies from newly appointed missionaries.

The public is invited.

## Help wanted

Ohio Baptists are asking for the help of Mississippi Baptist men to help construct a dormitory on their state Baptist assembly property.

Jobs to be done include working with copper plumbing, insulation, hanging and finishing sheetrock, installing doors and door jams, and staining or painting outside siding.

For details, contact Paul Harrell, Mississippi Baptist Brotherhood director, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205, or phone 968-3800.

# The Baptist Record

## Jackson cable company signs ACTS contract

By Don McGregor

Jimmy Allen, John Neal, and Joe Tuten have signed a contract that will bring the programs of the American Christian Television System (ACTS) into the Jackson area. ACTS is the nationwide religious television operation that is scheduled to get underway on a limited basis on May 15 and begin officially with the Southern Baptist Convention on June 12.

It will be a function of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission. Allen is president of the commission.

This was the second ACTS contract to be signed in Mississippi according to Farrell Blankenship, director of broadcast ministries for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Hattiesburg was first.

John Neal is manager of Capital Cablevision in Jackson, a system that has 50,000 subscribers. Joe Tuten, pastor of Calvary Church, Jackson, is chairman of the Hinds-Madison Association Television Committee.

The contract was signed last week at a luncheon meeting involving Jackson Mayor Dale Danks, City Commissioner Luther Roan, and civic and religious leaders of the city.

### Family oriented

In his remarks at the luncheon, Allen said that 75 percent of the programs will be family oriented, and 25 percent will be directly religious in nature involving preaching and teaching the gospel. He said that ACTS will give churches a way to function with television that they have not had before. He added that the whole process of developing ACTS began with the local church. The question was, "How can we put electronic arms on the local churches?" he said.

A part of the programming will be to put the commission's country and western show, "Country Crossroads," involving Mississippian Jerry Clower, on television. Allen said the aim is to be "a channel you can trust."

On May 15 the network will be activated with six hours of programming per day. With the official kick-off at the Southern Baptist Convention, this will be stepped up to 12 hours per day.

ACTS will fill these hours, but local ACTS boards will have the opportunity of pre-empting three hours daily and five hours on Sundays for local programming. In addition there will be four minutes per hour for mini-messages from sponsors. There will be no overt commercial advertising and no appeal for money on the air.

Allen said that the expectations are that the system will begin with the capacity of reaching 40 million



John Neal, left, manager of Capital Cablevision in Jackson, Jimmy Allen, center, president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, and Joe Tuten, pastor of Calvary Church, Jackson, and chairman of the Hinds-Madison Association Television Committee, sign the contract that will provide the Radio and Television Commission's American Christian Television System (ACTS) programs for Jackson cable subscribers.

people. This will eventually be increased to a network serving 100 million households, he predicted. The final system, he said, will involve 2,000 cable systems, 100 low-power television stations, and 25 to 30 full-power stations.

Danks said that he is aware of the role of religion in the life of the city and that he welcomes ACTS to Jackson.

Neal told the luncheon group that the programming of ACTS matches the concerns of the mainstream of the viewers in the Jackson area. He said that Capital Cablevision has initiated a \$250,000 project that will upgrade the system to a capability of handling 32 channels and allow the

system to accommodate the ACTS channel.

Allen added that ACTS will present an unapologetic Christians witness, and Tuten said that it will set before the community a Christian lifestyle.

Allen noted that there are 485 ACTS board contracts now being negotiated, and the network is expected to embrace 1,000 cable systems by the end of the year. He said ACTS will be on 20 low-power stations and three full-power stations during the first year of operation.

When it goes on the air in May, ACTS will be presenting programs from 4 p.m. until 10 p.m. With the official beginning in June the hours will be from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m., all central time.

## Baptists "on target" for Cooperative Program

Mississippi Baptists are "on target" in Cooperative Program giving for the first quarter of 1984, according to an announcement by Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The Board, which receives Cooperative Program gifts from the nearly 2,000 cooperating churches in the state, took in \$1,315,201 in March. This, added to January and February gifts, totals \$4,131,054.

A pro rata budget for the first three months of the year would be \$4,121,250; this means that state Baptists are ahead by \$9,804.

March gifts are only \$30,629 more than those of March 1983, however, total gifts for 1984 are \$294,163 ahead of those given in the first three months of 1983.

Total budget for 1984 is \$16,485,000, a 10.3 percent increase over the \$14,943,320 of 1983.

Just over one third of the Cooperative Program gifts go to Southern Baptist causes outside the state, helping fund seminary education, and home and foreign missions. The rest of the gifts go to Mississippi causes such as child care, Baptist colleges, and leadership training.



## Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record.

### FMB appointment service

Mississippi Baptists are excited about hosting the Foreign Mission Board appointment service on April 10 in Biloxi. All of our committees have been working hard for several months, and we feel all will be in readiness when our guests arrive.

I am writing this letter as a last minute reminder for Baptists of our state to be much in prayer for this event and to attend, if at all possible. We feel the Mississippi Coast Coliseum will be packed, and many will respond to the call of missions that very night.

We want to convey that we will be most happy to help with guest housing in our homes or motels here on the coast. Please feel free to call on us if we can help in any way.

Frank Gunn, chairman  
Local Arrangements Committee

### Where is the line?

Editor:

There has been recent concern for some 300,000 Southern Baptists in Mississippi who haven't been attending church.

Some of the people have probably joined other denominations; others are probably doing nothing at all.

Most of the people I talked to have been upset about three things in particular. There are no laws in the Southern Baptist constitution forbidding miscegenation, homosexuality and beer drinking.

Until something is done to eliminate these problems, the membership in Southern Baptist churches will continue to be affected in Mississippi and other states.

Bobby Carl Hill  
Collinsville

The Mississippi Baptist Convention constitution does not speak to such matters because to do so would dictate to the churches who they could have as members, and such dictation would violate the local church autonomy that is central to Baptist policy.—Editor

### Whose responsibility?

"But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." I Timothy 5:8.

Medicaid has cut its benefits and all residents of institutions receiving this service are required to pay for one day's expenses. This should not prove to be a burden on the families of the patients. In fact, the families would find richer blessings if they did shoulder the expense of caring for these loved ones. Keeping I Timothy 5:8 in mind, it seems quite clear that it is the family's and not the state's responsibility to care for their own.

"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to

visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." James 1:27.

For the elderly and handicapped with no family, or families who are unable to lend support, the church can and should play a vital role in ministering to their needs both spiritually and physically.

If families and the church would assume their rightful obligations, blessings would abound.

Edith Littlefield  
Pontotoc

### Amusements, not gambling

Editor:

The horse racing and pari-mutuel betting bill was defeated again this year. But its backers will try again next year.

Therefore, NOW is the time to try to get something good for Mississippi... something that would attract family tourist trade and new businesses, not the criminal element.

A SIX FLAGS family amusement park, like the one in Atlanta, Georgia, would be a good tourist attraction for Mississippi.

Maybe you or a reader of The Baptist Record could find a private organization... not an alcoholic beverage company either... that

would be interested in building a SIX FLAGS in Jackson County in the near future.

Let us not give up to the gambling interests. Let us unite and write our legislators and our director of tourism, Mr. George Williams, promoting a SIX FLAGS amusement park in Jackson County.

Our legislators' address is House of Representatives, Third Floor, New Capitol Building, Jackson, MS 39205. Mr. George Williams' address is Director, Division of Tourism, Department of Economic Development, 1301 Walter Sillers Building, P.O. Box 849, Jackson, MS 39205.

Mrs. Carol Dahlgren  
Gautier

### Need in Alaska

Editor:

I would like for you to put the following need in your paper. Our church is looking for a minister of music and youth. He needs to know youth education and have ability to organize youth and children's choir.

Please send resume to the pastor, Don Tallison Box 186, Soldotna, Alaska 99669.

Don Tallison  
Soldotna, Alaska

## Endowment study group visits institutions

The Mississippi Endowment Study Committee mandated by convention action last November, has met twice.

The first meeting was in Jackson March 12 when members heard Arthur Walker of the SBC Education Committee discuss endowment principles. Members of the committee, with college presidents and the Baptist Children's Village director present, decided to visit the institutions involved before considering any particular plan of action.

The March 28 meeting was at the campus of William Carey College in Hattiesburg. Besides hearing general information about the school, the committee heard from D. N. Nelson, Jr., representative of the Alabama

Baptist endowment campaign.

Future meetings will be on the campuses of Blue Mountain College, Mississippi College, and the Baptist Children's Village. These institutions, plus Carey, are the objects of the study to develop a full endowment program.

Members of the committee are Joe Tuten, Jackson, chairman; Bill Alexander Jr., Cleveland; David Grant, Jackson; Tom Hederman Sr., Jackson; Larris Otis, Tupelo; Jack Stack, Meridian; and John Thomas, Hattiesburg. The committee was appointed by Mississippi Baptist Convention president Charles Pickering of Laurel.

## Convocation on Laity to be at Southeastern

The second of a series of loosely-related Convocations on the Laity will be held April 26-28 at Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C. The first was last year at New Orleans Seminary.

This meeting will include discussions of the role of the lay person by Bill Diehl, Richard Broholm, Findley Edge, Reid Hardin, Christine Gregory, Owen Cooper, and Porter Routh. Diehl is an author of Christian books, Broholm is director of the Center of the Ministry of the Laity at Andover-Newton Theological School. Hardin is director of lay renewal for

the Home Mission Board. Mrs. Gregory is former president of the Woman's Missionary Union and former first vice president of the SBC. Cooper is retired president of Mississippi Chemical Corporation and former president of the SBC. And Routh is former executive secretary of the SBC Executive Committee of the SBC.

A \$50 registration fee covers materials, a banquet, and a lunch. Write W. Roberts Spinks, SEBTS Convocation of the Laity, Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C. 27587.

## Secretaries will meet for "Rainbow Days" in April



Hoskins

Tatum

The first of two statewide Secretaries' Conferences will take place April 16-17 at the Baptist Building in Jackson. Theme of the meeting will be "Rainbow Days."

Speakers include Sue Tatum, corporate secretary at Mississippi Chemical Corporation, and Lucy Hoskins, of the Baptist Sunday School Board. Miss Tatum will speak on the topic "How to get that raise without even asking and raise your self esteem at the same time," and on her view from both sides of the desk. Miss Hoskins will speak on "Short

cuts and time savers for the secretary."

Workshops during sessions will be on "Newsletters, bulletins, and mailouts," "Working with difficult (and other) church folks," "Improvement in secretarial skills," "The one secretary church," "Understanding your feelings," "Spiritual growth," and Understanding the need of individuals." Participants can choose two workshops during the conference.

The program begins at 12:30 p.m., April 16, and concludes the next morning at 11:45.

The second secretarial conference, also focusing on skill development, will be at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, July 9-11. For details on either of these two conferences, contact Leon Emery, Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205, phone 968-3800.

## May 27 is suggested day of prayer for SBC

Sunday, May 27, is being suggested as a special day of prayer for the Southern Baptist Convention which meets in Kansas City, June 11-14, according to Jack Gregory, Mississippi prayer coordinator.

Gregory, pastor of First Church, Poplarville, notes that prayers could be directed for the revivals preceding the convention in the Kansas City area, for the Pastors' Conference and Woman's Missionary Union convention, for planners of the convention, speakers, and special committees

which operate before and during the convention.

Mississippi Baptists are being asked additionally, to be in the prayer room at the Radisson-Muehlbach Hotel in Kansas City during convention sessions. Mississippi's times for the prayer room will be 8 p.m., Tuesday, June 12; and 7 a.m., Thursday, June 14.

The prayer room will be in operation every hour during the convention.

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# Faces And Places

by anne washburn mcwilliams

## 'Wilda Fancher



Pattie Dent, right, of Holly Springs, outgoing state WMU president, introduces Wilda Fancher of Coffeeville, the new president.

Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union in its 105th annual meeting, held at First Church, Hattiesburg, March 19-20, elected Ewilda Trenor Fancher as the 20th woman to be its president. She is the wife of James Fancher, pastor of First Church, Coffeeville. To our readers, she is well known as 'Wilda, writer of a popular column in the *Baptist Record*, 1970-77, called "Beyond the Ironing Board."

"WMU is my first love. There is something special about the spirit among the women at a WMU convention," she said. "Yet of all things, I never dreamed I would one day be state WMU president."

Now she is mission support chairman and Acteens leader at her own church. For many years, she has been active in all levels of Woman's Missionary Union. One year she spoke at the annual meeting of WMU, SBC. It was during the several years she was on the staff of the WMU Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, that she conceived and edited alongside, quarterly promotional paper of the state WMU.

"Miss Ed started me working on the district level," she recalled, "and leading state conferences." When Miss Edwina Robinson retired as state WMU director, Wilda wrote her biography, *Where's Edwina?* The night the book was introduced at Calvary Church, Jackson, Miss Ed and Wilda were wearing orchids, if I remember correctly. (Orchid is Wilda's favorite color, she told me, and it does go well with her blue eyes, fair skin, and brown hair.)

Ewilda Trenor was born at Houston, Miss., where she was baptized at age 8. When she was in the ninth grade, she and her family moved to Louisville. Later, her parents, the late Odie and Lizzie Kate Trenor, moved back to the old Trenor home place at Houston. Her only brother, Charles, died several years ago.

In 1970, I recall, I saw Wilda and James in the Budokan in Tokyo, at the congress of the Baptist World Alliance. They were visiting her sister and brother-in-law, Mary Lee and Curtis Askew, missionaries to Japan. Since then, the Askews have moved to Hawaii, where he is pastor of the Japanese language congregation of the Pali View Baptist Church and teaches Bible in the Hawaii extension of Wayland College. And—I find this quite interesting—Mary Lee is state president of the Hawaii Woman's Missionary Union.

It follows that the mother of these two state presidents—Wilda and Mary Lee—was very active in WMU. "I have been enrolled in mission organizations since as a tiny girl, I was a Sunbeam," Wilda said. "My love for missions probably goes back to my mother and to those first ladies who taught me in the mission organizations and in BYPU." And when she was in New Orleans Seminary, in a missions education course taught by Helen Falls, she was "really convinced of what WMU can do for the

cause of missions—how it is a most important part of the church." Too, she added, every church where James has been pastor has had "a good WMU."

She has a B.A. degree from Mississippi College and two master's degrees—M.R.E. from New Orleans Seminary and M.A. in English from Mississippi University for Women.

"My ambition was to marry a preacher," she said, "but I just didn't know the preacher would be James!" They were in high school together at Louisville and were married in First Church, Louisville.

Their three sons are Robert, who has a Ph.D. from Vanderbilt, where he is on the staff; Frank, a Belhaven graduate who is in management with Firestone; and James, who attended Oklahoma Baptist University and is in the insurance business in Oklahoma City. And now there are two grandchildren. Frank's Madelyn is five. James' son, James Calvin, was born in Oklahoma City on March 20, during the WMU convention. Guess where Wilda went last week.

Though she started writing in the fifth grade, she says, "I did not ever actually plan to be a writer." But in addition to "Beyond the Ironing Board," she wrote a column for the *Jackson Daily News* (it placed third in a national contest in a National Federation of Press Women). Her Broadman books, *The Christian Woman in the Christian Home* and *I Have Heard the Rainbow*, received first place awards in Mississippi Press Women competition. It was at her invitation that I joined Mississippi Press Women, and the two of us often attended meetings together when she lived in Jackson.

Beginning next October, a monthly column written by her will appear in *Royal Service*, national WMU

magazine—titled "Love Compels Me to Pray."

During the ten years her sons were in college she taught school (English, Latin, speech, journalism), and then was a member of the state WMU staff. Mission trips have taken her to the Philippines, where she taught for a month in the Baptist seminary in Baguio; to California, where she was member of a leadership training team; and to the Rio de la Plata in South America, with the group of women who went last year to teach Marjorie Kelly's book on spiritual gifts.

One year, during the meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention in November, she invited practically everyone at the convention to her house for supper! I could not imagine how they all would get into her house! W. D. and I accepted our invitation — and had lots of fun and lots of good food to eat. Everybody's supper was placed on a tray and we scattered all over the house. (Her specialty is turkey-sausage casserole). And James sometimes came to cook a soup and cornbread meal for all the Baptist Building employees.

In January of this year, Wilda was on the faculty for a Sunday School Board Recreation Lab at Glorieta. While there, she went skiing on the slopes near Santa Fe and earned the title, "Skier of the Week." No snow in Mississippi—so she spends her leisure time, she said, learning to work her home computer.

Congratulations, Wilda! I know that as state WMU president you will, as in everything else, do a tiptop job!

## Housing Bureau releases list of Dallas hotels

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—The hotel reservation business for the 1985 meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas will get serious 15 months before the session opens.

On March 14 the Southern Baptist Convention Housing Bureau released the names of the hotels which will be handled through the established reservation procedure.

That list includes 4,000 rooms—20 percent of those available in Dallas.

"That leaves another 16,000 rooms in the city, and individuals and groups can make reservations directly with those hotels for those spaces anytime they wish," said Tim Hedquist, director of financial planning for the SBC Executive Committee and the man responsible for convention arrangements.

"Groups who want to stay together might do better in the hotels which will not be in our 4,000-room pool

since all housing requests through us will be handled on an individual basis and there is no guarantee people will be assigned to the same hotel even if they request it."

The 4,000 rooms, many within walking distance of the meeting site, can be requested by acquiring a housing form in September and sending it to the SBC Housing Bureau after Oct. 1. Any request postmarked prior to Oct. 1 will not be accepted.

Hedquist said the 15-month lead time was not unusual. "We always release the names of the hotels we will keep as soon as the convention host city completes its work," he explained.

Anyone wanting a list of the reserved hotels may write: "Housing Information, 460 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, Tenn. 37219" or call 615-244-2355. (List will be in next week's BR.)

Thursday, April 5, 1984

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

## Disaster ministry

# Didlake assists in relief efforts in the Carolinas

Jim Didlake, consultant in the Brotherhood Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, was in South Carolina Friday of last week to assist the Brotherhood Department of that state with the technical operations of setting up operations for disaster relief following the tornadoes that caused widespread damage in North Carolina and South Carolina a day earlier.

Didlake and radio operator Gary Keen of Philadelphia flew to the scene of the destruction. Didlake said the site for operations had been selected and food arrangements had been made in preparation for the disaster relief unit of Alabama Baptists that was to arrive later in McColl, S.C.

About one-fifth of the residences in the town had been heavily damaged, Didlake noted. There were seven dead in the town and 14 dead in the county.

McColl, S.C. is located almost on the state line between South Carolina and North Carolina. Didlake said by telephone conversation with the Bap-

tist Record that he expected to return to Mississippi once the operations of the Alabama disaster relief unit were functioning smoothly.

## House hunger group coordinates issues

WASHINGTON (BP)—A Select Committee on Hunger designed to coordinate congressional actions on hunger issues has been established by the U.S. House of Representatives.

By a 309-78 vote, the House authorized establishment of the committee which will have no legislative jurisdiction but will be empowered to conduct a comprehensive study of domestic and international hunger problems as well as review executive branch recommendations on hunger.

A separate funding resolution for the committee will be considered at a later date.

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# Prayer chain will reach 'round world

A "Prayer Heard Round the World" will focus the attention of Baptist men on the Worldwide Day of Witness and Prayer sponsored by the Men's Department of the Baptist World Alliance.

This round the world prayer was composed by Quentin Ganda, an Indonesian layman and will be read over the phone in a chain of calls beginning on the afternoon of April 27 with Ken Merrick, a retired truck driver from Cocoa, Fla., who is chairman of the event, and ending at least 40 calls later back in Washington state at the Puget Sound Baptist Association offices.

In between, calls will be placed to and from New Zealand, Australia, several provinces of Canada, Sumatra, Sri Lanka, Wales, Bermuda, Mexico, and a number of cities in the U.S.

The Men's Department of the BWA suggests the fourth Saturday of April be adopted by church groups as

Worldwide Day of Witness and Prayer.

Owen Cooper of Yazoo City, Miss., and secretary of the Men's Division, notes that perhaps 60 countries will be represented by prayer groups this year.

Purpose of the telephone prayers is to focus on prayer and witnessing and to raise the consciousness of laymen in the area of prayer. Cooper says the prayer chain will follow the sun throughout the day of April 28. Many of the praying men do not know one another, says Cooper, but that meeting over the phone in this way, perhaps the prayer link can continue.

Cooper says that the phone links include a number of "side trips" to other areas inside various countries.

The text of the prayer is:

Our Holy and Righteous Father, we bow our hearts and our knees before you in humble adoration of your Holy presence.

We praise you that in many corners of this world your Name is known and worshipped by those who love you.

Give us a vision, Lord, to witness your holiness, so we can look at our world through your eyes, and see people as you see them. May we weep over the masses of the world with the same passion you wept over Jerusalem. Burn within us a passion for lost souls. Fill us with your love, enable us to give ourselves more completely to your service. Give us a vision of the kind of person you would have us to be in this world of greed, selfishness and hatred. Increase our love toward all mankind, people who are far from the comforts that we know, those in isolated areas where there is no one to tell them the Gospel.

We pray for the emptiness and loneliness of those we call rich that they might discover the fullness of your joy. Unite the spirit of all persons who make up the 122 conventions and unions of the Baptist World Alliance, Lord, that it might move as one person to change our world for you. We pray that our eyes, ears and hearts will be open so that you can lead us in acting out your love. Give us the boldness to declare your goodness and salvation to all mankind.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Missionaries Stanley and Glenna Stamps go twice weekly to an area 50 miles away from their home in Honduras to visit and hold services. More than 100 decisions for Christ were made several months ago resulting from an evangelistic and medical project. — The Commission.

## Training offered in lay renewal



Bangham

Hardin

A training conference for those interested in lay renewal is set for April 14 at the Baptist Building in Jackson. The conference will feature renewal leaders from across the Southern Baptist Convention, including Bill Bangham of the Brotherhood Commission and Reid Hardin of the Home Mission Board.

There will also be guest leading specialized conferences for coordinators of youth and children and for team members.

Sessions get underway at 10 a.m. and conclude at 3 that afternoon.

Cost is \$4 per person for lunch. Reservations may be made by writing Paul Harrell, Brotherhood director, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205, or phone 968-3800.

Satan guards the present, but hides the future.—Hugh Farmer

## Mississippi Baptist Activities

- Apr. 8 Teach Special Cooperative Program Sunday School Lesson in Sunday School (STEW Emphasis)
- Apr. 9-11 Foreign Missions Commissioning Service; Gulf Coast Coliseum; p.m., 9th-Noon, 11th (MBCB & FMB)
- Apr. 13-14 Church Drama Festival; FBC, Columbus; 6 p.m., 13th-4 p.m., 14th (CT)  
GA Mother/Daughter Weekend-all ages; Camp Garaywa; 4 p.m., 13th-1 p.m., 14th (WMU)
- Apr. 14 Baptist Men's Prayer Breakfast for the Cooperative Program in each association (STEW Emphasis)

## European refugees need sponsors

The Home Mission Board has more than 30 cases of European refugees who only need a church or church group to say "Yes, we will sponsor them," according to Richard Alford, language missions consultant in the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Cooperative Missions Department.

Churches need to take action in a business meeting, and contact Alford at Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205, for the next step.

Basically, sponsors provide initial living quarters, food and clothing, and help in locating job opportunities. As income stabilizes, church support phases out.

## Weekend focus: music, drama

Creative use of music and drama in church worship services will be the focus of a conference open to the public April 13-14 at First Baptist Church, Columbus.

The conference is for pastors, music directors, and other worship planners who wish to enhance congregational worship.

Speaker for the Friday evening session which begins at 7 p.m. is Robert Hughes, assistant professor of mass media at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Beginning at 8 a.m. Saturday and running to 4:30 that afternoon, classes include puppetry, clowning, acting, directing, worship planning, and staging musical drama.

There is a registration cost of \$5 per person to cover lunch and materials.

A youth night drama team will be selected from participants to share a drama worship feature during the Mississippi Baptist Youth Night at the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson, Aug. 3.

The program is sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Church Music and Church Training Departments.

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HAMMOND CHURCH ORGAN model T-262. Reasonably priced. Needs some minor adjustments. In current service. Call for details at (601) 939-6282.

# Mississippian helps to bring water to Upper Volta

OUAGADOUGOU, Upper Volta—Mississippi native Larry Cox remembers the time he saw a national woman eyeing the work of a bulldozer in a massive water-provision project that is part of a Baptist rural development plan in Upper Volta.

As Cox, an agricultural missionary in charge of the project, watched the bulldozer push back the rocky dirt to form a holding pond, the elderly African woman came and stood nearby. Water pot gracefully balanced on her head, she gazed at the activity, speechless.

Finally, a smile broke across her face, and she walked on. Cox heard her saying in her own language as she went away, "Praise God! Praise God!"

Such moments are part of the meat and potatoes Cox feeds on as a Southern Baptist missionary.

Cox came to the Sanwabo region of Upper Volta in a roundabout way. He and his wife, Cheryl, had originally wanted to be agricultural missionaries but lacked the training required by the Foreign Mission Board.

In 1975 he was appointed for religious education promotion in Ivory Coast, the country on Upper Volta's southwest border. After arriving on the field, however, the mission needed a publications director, so he filled the spot.

The couple saw during that first term how God could use their specific talents to help improve nationals'

lifestyles through agriculture. They came back to the States so he could study agriculture, and were reassigned to Upper Volta in 1980 as agricultural missionaries.

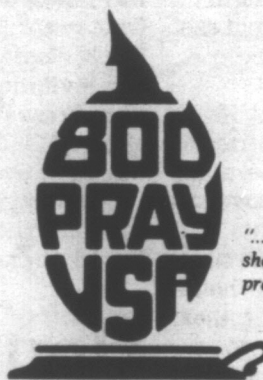
In the Sanwabo Project, Baptists are working to radically change the lives and lifestyle of more than 8,000 people in 17 villages in an isolated rural area about 2 1/2 hours southeast of Ouagadougou. The massive relief effort—Southern Baptists' most ambitious—requires the labor and input of local people, support from volunteers in America and supervision from missionaries, also engaged in evangelism and literacy programs.

Cox was born in Lexington, Miss., and lived near there in Black Hawk and Greenwood while growing up. After studying at Mississippi State University, he secured an undergraduate degree from Mississippi College, Clinton, and a master's degree in religious education from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., one of the six Southern Baptist seminaries.

His wife, the former Cheryl Keathley, was born in Memphis, Tenn. She was graduated from Mississippi College and taught school in Hinds County, Miss.

The Coxes have four children.

For the first time in the history of Mexican Baptists, their students are preparing for ministry among Mexico's vast student population. — The Commission.



"...times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord." Acts 3:19

The people of First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, are praying for God to send REVIVAL... to our church and to our city. In addition, over the next few months we are praying by name for each and every Southern Baptist church.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR US!

If you'll join us in asking God to ignite the fires of revival across the land, please let us know by calling...toll free... 1-800-PRAY USA from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (CT) Monday-Friday

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## Ministry recipients say "thanks"



John Sullivan, SBC first vice president, was featured speaker at the rally.

Laymen attending the annual Baptist Men's Rally at Parkway Baptist Church, Jackson, were told that God is only concerned with how a person serves him each day with what he has available and not with a man's past achievements.

John Sullivan, pastor of Broadmoor Church, Shreveport, told the estimated crowd of 650 that every born again believer, whether a minister or layman, has a responsibility to be a servant of God. "You are just as called as I am," Sullivan said, "We are all in this together, called to be the people of God."

Preceding Sullivan's message, Baptist men were reminded of ways they had already ministered to people in the state and beyond.

Purpose of the message and the testimonies, according to state Brotherhood Director Paul Harrell, was to send the men away knowing that the skills that they already possess can be used to serve God effectively.

Earl Rhodes and his wife, Chris, members of Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, the first of four to testify, told how a Baptist working

through the state convention's disaster relief ministry twice aided them when their Jackson home was flooded by the Pearl River.

"We were given supplies, a phone to use and even food," Rhodes said. "It really made an impression on me. And (the disaster relief bus) didn't just meet our physical needs. It served as a rallying point for others in the area with the same problem."

"We (other flood victims and Baptist volunteers) discussed our problem, and through a lot of faith and prayer were able to establish our homes again."

Otha Ballard, Meridian, explained the method by which Baptists in Mississippi and Asuncion, Paraguay, have teamed up to allow him to talk, via ham radio and telephone hook up, with his son, a Baptist missionary serving in the South American country. Thanks to the volunteer ham radio operators, his son Ron, a hospital chaplain, is able to call his father collect for only a fifth of what the cost would be if a normal telephone call were made.

Henry Glaze, program director at the Baptist Children's Village, and his wife, Ruth, related how Baptist men, in the style of an old fashioned "barn raising" had descended on the Village to fix buildings, tar roofs, and accomplish in one day repairs that would ordinarily have taken months to get done.

Ovis Fairley, chaplain to the prison staff at Parchman, and his wife, Virginia, talked about revivals Baptist men had led at Parchman, and the

many decisions for Christ that had resulted.

Prior to the rally, more than 450 people attended a banquet in the church gymnasium, where they were entertained by the Washboard Band, a group of overall-clad women from Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, and John "Big John the Cajun" Laughlin, minister of education at First Church, Meridian.

Providing special music at the rally were the Rester family, of Jackson. Gene, the father, is minister of music at First Church, Terry, while his daughter, Von, is pianist at First Church, Pearl. The third singer, Ron, is a high school student.

Nolan and Frances Brister, a couple who have recently completed a two year volunteer stint in Mississippi; with the Mission Service Corps as coordinators of volunteerism, were presented a plaque in honor of their service by Harrell.

Frank Gunn, pastor of First Church, Biloxi, and Don King, member there, issued invitations to Baptist to attend the Foreign Mission Board appointment service in their city April 10. King, chairman of the deacons of the coast church and prayer chairman for the event, also urged those present to be in prayer about the special service.

The evening's message of being willing to serve apparently reached a ready audience: when the congregation was asked how many had been involved in missions outside the state in the last year, 20 men were able to stand.



John "Big John the Cajun" Laughlin, of Meridian entertained during the banquet session.

## Baptist Joint Committee chief asks "equal access" passage

By Larry Chesser

WASHINGTON (BP)—Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs Executive Director James M. Dunn urged a House of Representatives education panel to restore "basic fairness" to the nation's public schools by approving "equal access" legislation sponsored by Rep. Don Bonker, D-Wash.

Dunn told the Subcommittee on Elementary, Secondary and Vocational Education Bonker's proposal (H.R. 4996) would "provide evenhandedness and fairness for religious counterparts of non-school sponsored secular groups of students who meet on their own initiative on public school premises."

"Basically," Dunn said, "the bill provides that if a public secondary school establishes a limited open forum by allowing student-initiated, student-controlled, non-school sponsored groups to meet on public premises it may not deny groups the

right to participate in that forum solely on the basis of the religious content of the speech to be used within the group."

Citing a recently-passed statement by the Baptist Joint Committee, Dunn said the agency's support for equal access legislation is "narrowly targeted," and it would "resolutely oppose anything less than the carefully-crafted wording" of the proposals by Bonker and Sen. Mark O. Hatfield, R-Ore. (S. 815).

Hatfield, appearing in support of Bonker's bill, said the proposal was not "a backdoor approach to get government and school officials into the business of sponsoring, promoting, and influencing religious activities."

Instead, Hatfield said, the measure "simply ensures that religious speech should not be singled out for exclusion once a forum for student discussion and interaction is created."

Bonker told Perkins' panel his bill "provides a constitutionally sound means of protecting religious speech in public high schools without running afoul of the First Amendment's establishment clause."

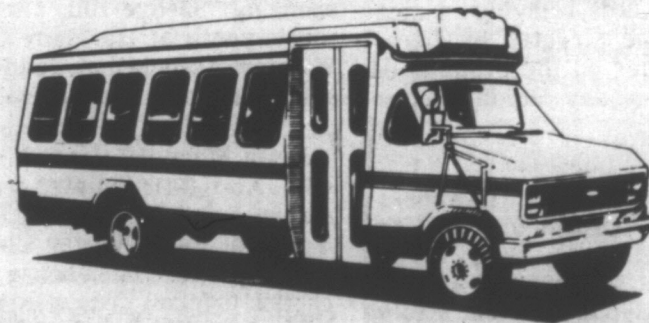
The Washington lawmaker added, "It is clearly inequitable to prevent high school students from meeting voluntarily for religious purposes when the school permits student meetings for virtually every other legitimate purpose."

Not all congressional witnesses favored the proposal. Rep. Don Edwards, D-Calif., called the Bonker bill "unnecessary and unwise."

"Make no mistake," Edwards said, "This is not an equal access bill. If it were, I would not hesitate to support it." He charged the bill "sets religious activity above other forms of First Amendment activity."

(Larry Chesser writes for the Baptist Joint Committee.)

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## WMU to train association officers at Camp Garaywa

"By Love Compelled," will be the focal point for members of Woman's Missionary Union in 1984-85. Attention will be given to this emphasis at the annual Associational WMU Officers' Training Retreat, April 27-28, at Camp Garaywa, Clinton.



Information will be shared during the training retreat about the emphasis, along with duties, responsibilities, and promotional ideas for activities and events to be used in every association.

Special program guest during the weekend, Mrs. Lynn Yarborough, training design consultant, WMU, SBC, Birmingham, will direct associational WMU leadership in developing conference teaching skills and techniques.

Conferences will be offered for directors of associational WMU, mission action/personal witnessing directors, directors of missions, and age-level directors.

## Clarke will have reunion

The Clarke College class of 1974 will have a reunion on the campus April 13 and 14 beginning at 6 p.m. April 13. The reunion activities will be held on the campus. More information may be obtained by calling Clarke College at 683-2061.

The retreat begins at 5:30 p.m. with the evening meal. The program begins at 6:30 p.m. and will conclude with lunch on Saturday.

Advance registration is required for housing space at Garaywa. The fee is \$15 per person and should be sent to the WMU office, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205, before April 23.

## Church protests appointment to Vatican

Members of Calvary Church, Louisville, have written a letter of protest against the President's appointing a U.S. ambassador to the Vatican.

The petition, which was signed by the pastor, Alvis K. Cooper, and 52 others, was sent to President Ronald Reagan, Senator Thad Cochran, Senator Howard Baker, Senator John Stennis, and the Baptist Record.

It stated, "We, the members of Calvary Baptist Church of Louisville, Mississippi, join with our pastor, Alvis K. Cooper, in protest against the president of the United States' decision to give full diplomatic recognition to the Pope and the Vatican. We protest the appointment of an ambassador and the funding for his expense. We call upon the President to reverse this violation of the Constitution of the United States and to do it without delay."

My support of the Cooperative Program is because so many are a part of the decision making and implementing of her programs. Thousands of directions and difficulties are considered before action is determined. To me that is most LOGICAL.

Some churches have, for one reason or another, left missionaries stranded on foreign soil. While the loss of support from one church does hurt it does not make havoc of the total program. To me that is LASTING.

As a local church I find the operation of a world wide ministry reduced to special projects. We may be wil-

## Hams will meet

The Fellowship of Mississippi Baptist Hams will meet April 14, 5-7 p.m. in the Skyroom of the Baptist Building in Jackson.

This informal organization of ham radio operators will be meeting the same weekend at the Capital Area Hamfest which is April 14-15 in Jackson. Attendance at the Baptist meeting will not conflict with Hamfest activities.

The Baptist hams will have a banquet, which costs \$6 per person and members will be revising bylaws and electing officers.

For details and reservations write Mrs. Linda Douglas, Brotherhood Department, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205, or phone 968-3800.

## Support is logical

By Jerry Mixon  
pastor, First, Winona

ling but time and ability regulate our opportunity. However, when we broaden our base, add depth to our ability we widen our horizon of ministry. To me that is LIMITLESS.

Here in Winona we believe that the most logical, lasting, limitless way to promote missions is by investing in the Cooperative Program. After all it is LYRICAL... most exciting.

## Names in the News

Ordination services were held for Harold "Bubba" Lollar Jr. on March 18 at State Boulevard Church, Meridian.



On Sunday afternoon, over 40 deacons and pastors met for the ordination council. On Sunday night, the ordination services were held, with Rhen Pierce, chairman of deacons at State Boulevard, presenting the Bible. W. F. Evans, pastor, gave the charge. The candidate's father, Harold Lollar Sr., preached the message. Lollar has been called to be pastor of the Pachuta Church.

George Fields and Bruce Fields, brothers of Larry Fields, pastor of Harrisburg Church, Tupelo, sang in both worship services at Harrisburg Sunday morning, March 25. George, a graduate of Mississippi College and Southern Seminary, is a full-time Christian entertainer, appearing and performing at banquets, meetings, and conventions. His home is in Louisville, Ky. Bruce, a graduate of MC and New Orleans Seminary, is minister of youth and activities at First Church, Biloxi.

Sylvia Green will be presented in piano mini-concert at First Church, Crystal Springs, Sunday, April 8, as a part of the evening worship service. She grew up in that church and is the daughter of Willard Green and the late Mrs. Green. She is on the staff of East Grand Baptist Church, Dallas, Tex.

The Foreign Mission Board has named Wendy Norvelle, a former journeyman to Zimbabwe, as manager of auxiliary personnel. In her new position, she will direct application and selection procedures for missionary associates, journeymen and special assignment and Mission Service Corps personnel. She will replace Everett Burnette, who was reappointed as a missionary with his wife, Dorothy, in October.

Bill Henry, associate director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention student department for 12 years, has been named supervisor of the program section of national student ministries of the Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.

## S' eastern adopts record budget

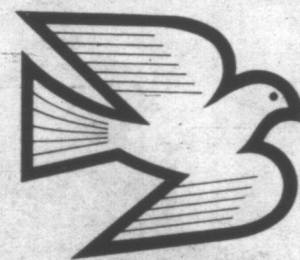
WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — Trustees of Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., have adopted a \$5.4 million budget for the 1984-85 year.

Cooperative Program income is expected to total more than \$3.8 million.

The trustees also joined in presenting the seminary's fourth Citation for Excellence in Christian Ministry to Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Price of Pittsburgh, Pa. The Prices were recognized for their work in establishing a strong Baptist witness in Pennsylvania, which resulted in the creation of numerous churches and the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania-South Jersey.

Price presently is second vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention and is president of the national Fellowship of Baptist Men.

## The Holy Spirit



Baptist Doctrine Study  
April 16-20, 1984

Study *The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit* by Landrum P. Leavell, II, *Youth Affirm: The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit* by Herschell Hobbs, *I Can Know God* by Robert Brown (Grades 4-6), and *Ways We Know God* by Tom McMinn (Grades 1-3). Order from your Baptist Book Store.

## Revival Dates

**County Line Church, Crystal Springs:** April 8-11; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed. at 7 p.m.; D. W. Green, pastor of First Church, Edwards, bringing the messages; music directed by Leroy Stuart; dinner on the grounds on April 8, opening day; Bob Mack, pastor.

**Antioch, Columbus, (Lowndes):** April 8-11; Curtis Williams, pastor of McLaurin Heights, Pearl, evangelist; Eric McNair, minister of music, Pelahatchie Church, leading the music; services on Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed. at noon and 7 p.m.; Jimmy Harrington, Pastor.

**Calvary Church, Columbus:** April 8-11; Bryan Harris, minister of youth, First Church, Columbus, evangelist; music under direction of Joe Pate, minister of music at Artesia Church; special music April 10 by the BSU ensemble from Mississippi University for Women; services on Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed. at 7 p.m.

**Cleary Church, Florence:** April 8-13; Malcolm Richard, evangelist; Kent Shirley, pastor.

**Oakland Grove Church, Laurel:** youth revival: April 5, 6, and 7; 7 each evening; Tony Gordy, minister of music-youth, Sandersville Church, speaking; Shellye Hill, minister of music-youth at Harmony Church, Winston Association, leading the singing and providing special music.

**Faith Memorial Church, Poplarville:** April 8-11; building dedication service Sunday at 3 p.m., with David Young of Petal-Harvey Church as guest speaker; open-house and reception to follow dedication service; each night at 7; Tony Lambert, Dublin Church, Prentiss, to speak on Monday night; Andy Wood of First Church, Jackson, Ala., speaker on Tuesday night; Bill Galloway of Olive Church, Lumberton, speaker, Wed. night; Mike Hannaford of Juniper Grove Church, Poplarville, leading the music; Clifford Lazenby, pastor.

**Colonial Hills Church, Southaven:** April 15-18; Jimmy Porter of First, Louisville, evangelist; Mike Burt of Shreveport, La., leading the music; Tommy Vinson, pastor; services at 7 nightly.

**Pleasant Grove (Wayne):** weekend spring revival; April 6, 7, 8; Charles Gordon, preaching.

**Rocky Point (Leake):** April 8-13; day and night services; Bob Followell, visiting preacher; Myrna Loy Hedgepeth of Jackson, leading the singing; David Wilkinson, pastor.

**Meadowview Church, Starkville:** April 15-18; guest speaker, Joe Blackwell of Williamsville Church, Attala County; services to begin on Sunday, April 15, morning worship, and continue each night at 7, through Wednesday; L. J. Brewer, pastor.

**Wheeler Grove (Alcorn):** April 15-18; James Ervin, associate pastor, Broadway Church, Memphis, preaching; Dexter Benjamin, minister of music, Wheeler Grove, leading singing; Kara Blackard, pastor; services at 7 nightly.

**Antioch (Rankin):** April 8-11; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed. at 7 p.m.; Jerry File, evangelist; Joe McGraw, musician; Martin Williams, pastor.

**Woodland Hills, Jackson:** April 8-11; Landrum P. Leavell II, president of New Orleans Seminary, evangelist; Larry Smith, professor of voice, Union University, Jackson, Tenn., leading the music; Bill Fuller, pastor; services Sunday at 10:45 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed. at 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. with lunch being served at 11:30 a.m.; each night at 7.

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## - Just for the Record -



BRIAR HILL CHURCH, FLORENCE, held its first GA recognition service recently with the theme, "New Life." Girls who received awards are, left to right, first row: Elizabeth Ellis, Amy George; second row: Amy Short, Summer George, Alison Bryant, Adina Thornton; third row: Angela Martin, Lisa Martin, Nikki Henry, Melissa Waggoner. GA leaders are Beverly Henry, Julia Waggoner and Glenda Gregory. Wilson Winstead is pastor.



PERKINSTON CHURCH dedicated its new education building March 25. An open house was held also. The two-story facility includes church offices, church nursery, classrooms, kitchen, and fellowship hall. The building was named in honor of J. N. Dedeaux, deacon, teacher, and leader in the church for 63 years. The dedication message was delivered by Elwyn N. Wilkinson Jr., pastor; the church choir presented special music. Special recognition was given to the church building committee.

The Children's Department of Sunshine Church, Rankin County, will present the musical, "The Super Gang," on April 15, at 7 p.m. "This could be a learning experience for those churches in the process of starting a Children's Church. The public is invited, and a nursery will be provided," states Gyndola Prestwood, church secretary. For more information, call 939-6282. Sam Creel is pastor.

Youth of Calvary church, Columbus (Lowndes) sponsored a sweetheart banquet for the adults Feb. 10. David Hall, pastor of First Church, West Point, was guest speaker. Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Sims provided special music. Members of the youth committee, Mr. and Mrs. Buddy Thweatt, Mrs. Patsy Hawkins, Roy Hawkins, Calvary pastor, and Mike Carroll, minister of youth, organized the banquet to help the church pay for property.

Youth of Calvary Church, Columbus (Lowndes) held a youth Valentine banquet on Feb. 11. Music was provided by Mr. and Mrs. Tom Beasley. Mike Carroll, minister of youth at Calvary, was the speaker. Roy Hawkins is pastor.

Twenty-two of 30 churches in Alcorn Association plan to participate in the World Missions Conference scheduled to take place April 29-May 26. Participating churches include: Antioch, Bethlehem, Biggersville, Calvary, East Corinth, First Baptist, Glendale, Hinkle, Holly, Jacinto, Kendrick, Kossuth, Love Joy, Oakland, Rienzi, Shiloh, South Corinth, Tate Street, Tishomingo Chapel, Tusculumbia, Union, and West Corinth.

A seminar on Bread for the World will be led by Kimble Forrister on Saturday, April 7, from 9 a.m. until noon in the Sanctuary of Woodland Hills Church, Jackson. It is an open meeting, to anyone interested in learning more about Bread for the World.

Kimble Forrister is Southeast Organizer for Bread for the World, a Christian citizens' movement against hunger and poverty. He formerly worked for seven years in ministry with the urban poor in Trenton, NJ, and Brooklyn, NY. A native of Nashville, Forrister received his B.A. at David Lipscomb College and his Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary. He is a member of the Church of Christ.



FIRST CHURCH, RIPLEY, recently held a service of recognition for its Royal Ambassadors. Seventeen boys are enrolled, with six leaders. J. P. Kirkland is the interim pastor.

Front row, left to right: Brigg James, Brad Hurt, Michael Mathis; Second row: Lee J. Grisham, Lee Bennett, Mike Britt. Third row: Shane Crawford, Sam Bryant, Nathan Cooley, Chip Coombs; Fourth row: John Britt, Jr., Steve Cross, Matt Goolsby, Shane Hill, Graig Heard; Fifth row: John Britt, Director, and leaders, Brent Bryant, Allen Murphy and Tim Smith; Not pictured: Leaders: Wiley Nance and Paul Hardin. R.A. Boys: Chris Garner, Spencer Holley, and Keith Aycok. John Britt is R.A. director.

## Baptist offering helps Rio Grande farm workers

By Larry Brumley

DALLAS (BP) — Texas Baptists have contributed more than half of a "second offering" collected by various Texas religious organizations for 15,000 Rio Grand Valley farmworkers left unemployed after December's devastating freeze.

The uncharacteristic south Texas freeze virtually shut down the area's agricultural and citrus industries.

Of the first \$400,000 released by the Texans' Valley Disaster Relief Fund, more than \$250,000 came from Baptist churches which have collected special offerings since Feb. 19.

Gov. Mark White called together religious leaders from all faiths on Jan. 30 and appealed to them to collect a special offering to help the unemployed workers pay utility bills and buy food, clothing and other necessities. Government assistance was exhausted, he said.

The funds are being allocated to each county on the basis of "the best information we can acquire about population, unemployment and im-

pact of the freeze," said Phil Strickland, Texas Christian Life Commission Director. Funds are being distributed which can be used to obtain food, shelter, fuel and other critical needs.

"This money does not solve the long-term needs," Strickland said. "It provides emergency relief, which is a significant act of compassion by the churches. We quickly acknowledge that it does not remove the long-term problem created by the economic conditions in the Valley."

Robert Smith, director of missions for Rio Grande Association, said a "trickle of churches" have been coming to the Valley to help and "three or four" upstate churches so far have made a commitment to a one-to-two-year partnership.

Partnership between upstate churches and churches in the Valley was recommended by a Texas Baptist missions division task force.

(Brumley writes for The Baptist General Convention of Texas.)

## Home Board boosts force to record 3,792

ATLANTA (BP)—The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board recorded an 18 percent increase in missions personnel last year, boosting the total home missions force to a record 3,792 persons, reported Irvin Dawson, director of the HMB's missionary personnel department.

The board approved or appointed 630 new missions workers during 1983, the second largest number of appointees during a single year, he said. In 1982, 693 new workers were assigned.

The figure reflects a net increase of 368 missions workers over the 1982 total of 3,424, said Dawson. Differences in the net increase and the actual numbers of appointees stem from resignations or congregations

reaching self-supporting status and picking up full support of HMB-approved pastors, explained Dawson.

The bulk of the home missions force was comprised of persons receiving church, language, or field pastoral assistance, he noted.

Church extension and language missions workers numbered nearly 75 percent of the total 1983 home missions force, said Dawson. The HMB's church extension division supported 1,475 missions workers at the end of 1983; language missions workers totaled 1,362, he explained.

Texas remained first in number of home missions personnel assigned to work in the state with 361 workers; California ranked second with 355.

## Winona takes giant step

Under the leadership of many in the church, First, Winona recently held a study of home missions. Afterward, the pastor, Jerry Mixon, talked with each WMU group, and it was decided that as much emphasis would be placed on the home missions special offering as had been placed of the special offering for foreign missions.

A day was set to reach the Annie Armstrong Offering goal. Little footprints were placed all about in the church, announcing, "One giant step is coming."

A week prior to the special day, each church member received a letter and a mission envelope. The letter announced that this is the one giant step — all the way in one day for home missions. The goal was set at \$4,000. Last year the church had reached its goal at the end of three months.

This year the goal was not only reached in one day — but it was exceeded. At the close of the day, First Winona, members had given \$6,689.00 to home missions.

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# Philadelphia volunteers for ministry in Texas

By Betty Smith

"I had my retirement years neatly planned..." says Eleanor Burt, of Philadelphia, who until succeeded



Burt

recently by Deborah Brunt, was recording secretary of Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union. But a visit from Mildred McWhorter, Christian social ministries missionary in Houston, Texas, changed her plans. Mildred invited Eleanor to spend a month working in the three centers where she and her staff minister to Mexican-Americans, Eleanor went in October — and she forgot all about the plans she had made.

Eleanor lived in one of the centers with several other staffers — college students, a US-2 couple, and some Christian Service Corps volunteers. She did a lot of cooking for the staff, and she roomed in one of the offices for ten days until her room could be painted and made ready for her — "but that was all right," she says.

Her activities included teaching sewing classes for women (with interpreters), English classes, children's clubs in the afternoons with singing and Bible lessons. She also taught six, seven, and eight year old boys. She says, "They were rascals of the first degree, but precious also."

She continues, "One of my favorite activities was the Bible study classes for teenage boys. Some of the boys had been in jail and in all sorts of trouble, but they were attentive and joined in the study. They touched my heart as no other group."

Eleanor remembers one day when she and another worker drove along the street. It was mid-afternoon and suddenly thousands of children came pouring out of nearby schools. Eleanor thought, We are touching hundreds, but there are thousands to be ministered to.

So, to help minister to these

thousands, Eleanor will return to Houston in September for nine months or a year.

She says, "Before I went to Houston, I really prayed that I would be able to stay for a month and not be homesick. But after a month, when I had to leave and come back home, I wept like a child."

Eleanor said she regrets having to give up her association WMU work and service on the WMU Executive Board and her Sunday School class. "However," she says, "I am sure this is what I should do, and others can and will do the work here who could not leave home."

(Betty Smith edits alongside, WMU publication in which this article appeared.)

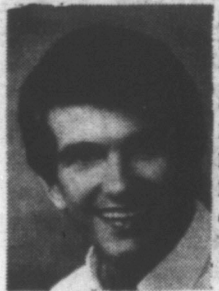
## Revival Results

**Arlington Church, Bogue Chitto:** March 16, 17, 18: lay renewal weekend, coordinated by Sidney Ellis, business manager of Greenville Schools; 38 team members from many parts of the state. Jim Jeffreys, pastor, reports; "The results were so great that everything has doubled, offerings, attendance in Sunday School, church (choirs and mission organizations completely changed); six for baptism; spontaneous witnessing teams in both adult and youth groups. Two deacons that hadn't spoken in 15 years were reconciled. Our church is together more than it has been in 50 years. It has a potential of 400, and they are moving out to gain that potential."

"This revival is infiltrating out into the county because others are beginning to hear of the results. The greatest part is the church revival. There are two essentials for a successful renewal weekend. (1.) A real desire for a spiritual awakening. (2.) Preparation with the 24-hour prayer service preceding the lay renewal. I would highly recommend this to any size church. Just contact Paul Harrell in the Brotherhood Department."

## Staff Changes

Hunter Huff has been called as minister of youth and assistant to the pastor at First, Winona. Huff is a



Huff

graduate of Mississippi State University and has served as summer missionary to Israel twice. He will move on the church field April 16.

David Hamilton is the new pastor at First Church, Verona.

Gray Allison Jr. has been called as pastor of Brewer Church, Lee County. He goes from a pastorate in Tennessee.

Dennis Rape has accepted the position as minister of education at,

Parkway, Tupelo. He is a recent graduate of Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Don Womble has assumed his duties as pastor of Causeyville Church in Lauderdale Association. He goes to the area from Attala Association. For the past eight months, A. C. Johnson, past president of Clarke College, has served as interim pastor of the Causeyville church.

Line Creek Church in Pelahatchie has called James Chandler as pastor. Chandler is a bivocational pastor who works for the railroad. Previous pastorates include Gum Springs, Braxton, and Pearl Valley, Wesson.

Bob Taylor has been called as minister of youth by the Faith Church, Oktibbeha Association. He is a student at Mississippi State University.

## Devotional

### Delightful delays!

By Ralph Culp, pastor, Central, Golden

When he received the news that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was for two more days (John 11:6 TEV).

The flight from Dallas had been turbulent and extremely frightening to an infrequent flyer like myself. Torrents of rain beat hard against the wings of the plane. Ceaseless flashes of lightning, like neon signs, broke through the darkness of the late night hours.



Culp

The pilot's intercom interrupted the fearful silence: "Ladies and gentlemen, we apologize for the delay in flight. Because of the severity of the thunderstorms in the Jackson area, we have been advised to circle in a holding pattern for 30 minutes before landing." Then he added these words . . . "however, we do not have enough fuel to circle. We will turn back to Memphis to refuel and to study the storm patterns!"

Though this delay was robbing us of precious travel time and a good night's rest, we were nonetheless relieved and thankful to be safe and to be on the ground. This delay presented an opportunity to reflect upon some of life's most precious moments.

The "storms of life" may offset our programs and upset our schedules. We are compelled oftentimes to put life in a "holding pattern" until some problem is cleared up. We may need to make an emergency landing in order to refuel spiritually and to study the directions of life's situations.

The disciples were learning to minister to the hurts of humanity. The overload of their work became a burden to Christ. "And the apostles gathered together unto Jesus and told him all things, both what they had done and what they had taught. And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place and rest awhile, for there were many coming and going and they had no leisure so much as to eat" (Mark 6:30-31 KJV). Literally Jesus said to them, "Come ye apart before you come apart!"

The Apostle Paul was reminded that some delays are the operations of the Lord. "When they reached the border of Mysia, they tried to go into the province of Bithynia but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them" (Acts 16:7 TEV). Later the doors were opened and he was allowed to go into Macedonia to help them.

The sisters of Lazarus could not understand the apparent delay of Jesus in coming to the bedside of his friend. Martha's statement reflected her true desires. "If you had been here, my brother would not have died!" (John 11:21). Truly she was asking, "Why didn't you come? Why the delay?" However, his delay set the stage for an even greater miracle for them.

When life seems to be caught in a holding pattern, remember, these delays are only temporary stopovers! Take advantage of each opportunity. Survey your past. Set your priorities straight. Be strengthened by God's grace. Keep your eyes on the runway — your ticket has been stamped for a final destination!

## Two new study course awards will be presented at convention

As an incentive to increase training in and proper reporting of Church Study Course areas, the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board will be presenting annually at the state convention two new awards. The church with the largest number of Study Course Awards and the highest ratio of awards as related to the resident membership will be recognized.

Selection of these churches will be from the year-end computer print-

ing.

out for Mississippi that concludes on Sept. 30. Churches will be notified in advance so that a representative can be present to receive the award.

Churches today can take advantage of a wide variety of excellent training books in the Study Course area, training can help your church in all areas of its ministry according to Jim Dillake, study course committee member at the Baptist Building.

## WMU elects '84 board

Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union elected new Executive Board members during the recent state convention in Hattiesburg, a director and associate director for each of nine districts.

**District I:** Mrs. Wesson Burge, Gulfport, director; Mrs. Ralph Davis, Moss Point, associate director.

**District II:** Mrs. Vincent Scoper Jr., Laurel, director; Mrs. Douglas E. Benedict, Purvis, associate director.

**District III:** Mrs. Jerry Taylor, Clara, director; Mrs. A. G. Weems, Meridian, associate director.

**District IV:** Mrs. Bruce Mitchell, Louisville, director; Mrs. Sue Keen, Philadelphia, associate director.

**District V:** Mrs. Raymond Lloyd, Starkville, director; Mrs. Adelyn Burris, Weir, associate director.

**District VI:** Mrs. Joe Hardin, Winona, director; Mrs. Thomas R. Phillips Jr., Calhoun City, associate director.

**District VII:** Mrs. B. G. Burns, Baldwyn, director; Mrs. Tom Sumrall, New Albany, associate director.

**District VIII:** Mrs. Bill Duncan, Booneville, director; Mrs. Barbara Smith, Corinth, associate director.

**District IX:** Mrs. C. A. Sanders, Holly Springs, director; Mrs. Armond Taylor, Olive Branch, associate director.

## Missionary News

James and Dorothy Gilbert, missionaries to Panama, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, 4319 Iroquois St., New Orleans, La. 70126). He was born in White Bluff, Miss. She was born in Memphis, Tenn., and lived in several Tennessee and Mississippi towns.

David and Mildred Moreland, missionaries to Upper Volta, have completed language study in France and arrived on the field (address: Mission Baptiste, B.P. 580, Ouagadougou, Upper Volta). He was born in New Orleans. She was born in McComb, Miss.

Missionaries Al and Judy Gary in Guadeloupe report, "Since the first of 1983 we have seen an openness to, and a searching for, the Lord that we have not seen before." — The Commission.

## Resources for Christian Home Week May 6-13, 1984

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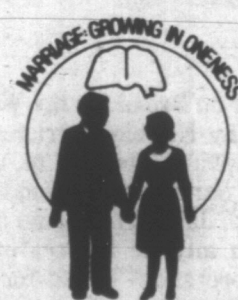
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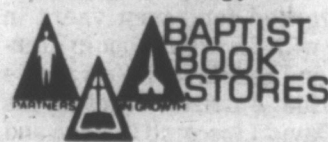
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## Gifts of Honor and Memory February 25 — March 25, 1984

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a listing of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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Truth Seekers Sunday School,  
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Mrs. Windham  
Martha Ruth Phillips  
Loyd Wolfe  
Rena Lara Baptist Church  
Mrs. Mae Bess Yarber  
Mrs. Elizabeth Williams

### GIFTS OF OF HONOR

Mrs. Becky Milling  
The Alathan Sunday School  
Class, Collins  
"Daddy Guy & Mamma Doris"  
Reedy  
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen M. Stewart  
Mrs. Van Smith, Sr.  
Ann Smith  
Margaret Smith  
Elizabeth Smith  
Frances Norman  
Van Smith, Jr.  
Mrs. Lois Terry  
Catherine West Dalton



Mr. and Mrs. Guy Reedy and Leland Hurt of First Baptist Church, Water Valley; Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Berry of First Baptist Church, Coffeeville, gather with Village staff at the recent open house for Reedy Acres, the Village's newest facility.



## Confrontation in Jerusalem

By Robert Earl Shirley, pastor, Parkway, Tupelo  
Mark 11:8-10, 15-19, 27-33

As we come now to the last week of Christ's life prior to his crucifixion, the events take on increased importance. There are only hours left to prepare his disciples for the work that they are to do, and the Jewish leaders have finalized their plans to destroy him. The path that he takes from this time on will lead him directly to the cross.

**The entry into Jerusalem (11:8-10).** In the earlier passage of the book of Mark, Jesus has commanded that the account of his healings and miracles not be broadcast to the world, but now the situation has changed. From a small village toward the Mount of Olives, he sends two of his disciples into the city with orders to return with a colt they will find there tied to a tree.

We do not know whether he had made previous arrangements with its owner or whether his divine foresight let him know that its owner would gladly grant permission for its use. At any rate, the mission went exactly as planned. His dramatic entry into Jerusalem sitting upon the animal is the public proclamation of himself as the Messiah. His time has come, and the actions of the crowd and their unrestrained enthusiasm show their willingness to accept him as such.

Unfortunately, their concept of the Messiah is that of a conquering hero who will set up a political kingdom and drive out their Roman captors. Their cry of "Hosanna" was a prayer which means "Save now" and was

used either as a plea of the people to intercede in the life of the nation now that the Messiah had come or else was praise for one from whom help was anticipated. In their excitement, they missed the significance of his riding upon the colt of an ass rather than a dashing steed, and a borrowed one at that. He is indeed a king, but his kingdom is not of this world.

**The cleansing of the temple (11:15-19).** One can imagine the displeasure of our Lord when he entered the temple and discovered it being used as a bank and a market place with exorbitant prices being charged for money changing and for doves to be used by the poor for sacrifices. The Greek and Roman coins of those pilgrims from other areas who visited the temple could not be used in the worship there so selfish dealers in Jewish coins took advantage of the situation.

With the force of his dynamic personality and the strength of his popularity with the masses at the moment, Jesus overturned the tables and threw out the dishonest merchants and money changers. He seems to have met no physical resistance from those who presumably had received permission from the temple officials and possibly paid a fee to carry out the activities that he was prohibiting. Certainly, there was authority in his nature and his bearing that allowed him both to oust these persons and to linger there afterwards preventing others from using the court of the Gentiles as a shortcut through the area.

It was appropriate that he had just cleansed the Gentile court when he said, "My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer." With these words, he proclaimed the universal application of the gospel to all people everywhere in all generations and the sacredness of the house of God.

**The answering of a question (11:27-33).** The cleansing of the temple by Jesus was a daring thing, and it was only natural that those who were already his enemies and who considered themselves the true custodians of the temple would resent his move and question his authority to take such action. He could have easily and truthfully answered as had the Old Testament prophets that he had been sent by God and was carrying out his commission. Instead, he employed a method frequently used by the rabbis in that day and answered their question with another one. "The baptism of John, was it from heaven, or of men? Answer me." This was not an evasion of their question but an effort to make them see the truth for themselves.

If they agreed that John the Baptist had divine backing, they would also have to admit that Jesus was the promised Messiah as John had proclaimed him. If they declared that John's backing was only human, they would infuriate the masses who held John in high esteem as a prophet. His question forced them to see and yet deny the truth by declaring that they could not tell. Such is the power of hatred.

## Judgment provoked

By Bill Causey, pastor, Parkway, Jackson  
Amos 3:1-4:13

Having brought Israel's attention from the surrounding nations down to their own nation, Amos tells them of the judgment of God which is sure to come. Their failures as a nation and his call as a prophet create an enormous tension. He is compelled by his call to show them what God showed him. The reasons for judgment and the certainty of judgment comprise this section of the book.

**I. Covenant responsibility (3:1-13)**  
Israel was chosen (vss. 1-2) of God, nurtured, and delivered so that God could use them to teach the nations of the earth. Instead of assuming this responsibility, Israel has used her chosenness as an opportunity for sin and self-indulgence. He lists a number of things from everyday life which produce normal responses in the people (3-6).

But what do they do when God speaks through his prophet? It is certain his prophet cannot fail to deliver the message of God to the people (vss. 7-8); yet the people who respond to everything else seem unable to respond to God. Even the Philistines (Ashdod) and Egyptians could see the tumults and oppressions, but Israel does not seem able to do what is right (vss. 9-10).

Therefore . . . judgment! An enemy (11) will tear down their defenses. The homes and public places (12) and even the places of worship (14) are going to be destroyed and only scraps (12) of their former indulgence will remain. He refers to summer and winter homes and ivory couches, as evidences of their affluence resulting from their oppression of the poor (4:1). Not their wealth but the way they got their wealth is the moral problem here.

### II. Specific charges (4:1-5)

The failure to be what God called them to be has resulted in a people and a style of life which God finds worthy of punishment.

The women of Israel are called "cows of Bashan." Bashan was a land east of the Sea of Galilee known for its wheat, its pastures and especially for its fat healthy cattle. In calling them this, he rebukes their excesses, condemns their oppression of the poor, and their making demands upon their husbands for luxuries and drink (4:1). The holiness of God cannot tolerate these things and still be holy, so the prediction of Amos is that they will be led away as captives with meat hooks and fish hooks (2) and like lumbering cattle escaping through holes in fences they will be rounded up and taken to a place of

captivity called Harmon (3).

There is great difficulty in showing these affluent people their sin when they say they can "afford" it. The allurements of sin, like a frog in gradually heating water, gradually but comfortably brings to death.

These same attitudes made religion to be fashionable and widely practiced but not life changing. Indeed the practice of their religion was so easy and undemanding that Amos sarcastically urges them to "multiply" their transgressions against God by making more frequent trips to the places of worship. Like Elijah telling the prophets of Baal to "cry louder," Amos eggs them on in their meaningless rituals (4-5).

### III. God's patient efforts (4:6-12)

God tried many ways to get them to turn to him with all their heart. But they would not. God tried famine (6), drought and partial drought (7-8), wind, mildew, and caterpillars destroying crops (9), plague, which included the death of their young men (10), and narrow escapes (11).

Five times (6b, 8b, 9b, 10b, 11b) God says "yet you have not returned." How consistently a loving God instructs and appeals to his people. But because they refused to turn to him, Amos sounds one of the most ominous warnings in the Bible "Prepare to meet your God, O Israel" (12).

They will meet him in the coming destruction of their nation but they will also discover who he is! The creator! The one speaking through his prophet: The Lord of hosts is his name!

How awesome will be the meeting with the true God after the toying and pretending of self indulgent and immoral people who made God a cultural plaything in their society.

And today! Are there many for whom God is an addendum or postscript to their boring lives? Or does he still demand of our lives a moral and ethical response to him and his righteousness? Our answer is critical.

## Ethnic work needs understanding, literature, leadership, linkage

By Everett Hullum

LOS ANGELES (BP)—The growing pluralism of American society demands Southern Baptists work more aggressively to develop ethnic churches, missions leaders told more than 200 persons attending the 27th annual language missions leadership conference sponsored by the SBC Home Mission Board.

Development of these churches will be "determined by the denomination's ability and willingness" to reproduce its programs in the cultural, linguistic, and socio-religious backgrounds of the people, the conference participants were told.

Those were the key points made by Oscar Romo, director of language missions for the Home Mission Board, and William Pinson, executive director of Baptist General Convention of Texas, in speeches to the more than 200 Southern Baptist Convention mission leaders attending the 27th annual Language Missions Leadership Conference in Los Angeles.

Romo pointed out the convention had added 345 new language-culture units (churches, missions, Bible studies, or preaching points) annu-

ally for the past five years. In addition, work has been initiated with at least one new ethnic group every year since 1971.

Southern Baptists have 4,000 ethnic congregations with more than 300,000 participants. Yet church growth among ethnics is not keeping pace with ethnic population growth.

In 13 of the nation's 20 largest cities, Romo noted, ethnic/racial minorities comprise more than 50 percent of the total population, yet "Southern Baptists have not done well in evangelizing the urban population." Additionally, recent studies report more than 600 languages are spoken within the United States.

But projections for the rest of the decade indicate only a 10 percent SBC growth rate, with denominational language missions increasing by 4,574 new units and seven new ethnic groups. This, Romo indicated, would not keep pace with immigration and population growth among ethnic Americans.

Pinson suggested four areas in which Southern Baptists need to concentrate if they are to provide opportunities for worship/witness to the

United States' burgeoning ethnic population:

(1) Leadership. Pinson called for an "explosion of leaders" from among ethnic groups. Believing "God will bring forth" people with leadership ability.

(2) Literature. Admitting "we don't have adequate ethnic materials, but we have the resources," Pinson said those concerned about language missions must "pray, work, and lobby" to see literature is produced to meet the needs of ethnic Southern Baptists.

(3) Understanding. "We have a denomination that is illiterate to America's ethnicity," Pinson said. Charging "we have to understand the makeup of this nation to know what is needed to meet the challenge of language missions."

(4) Linkage. Pinson said he realizes it is impossible for language missions to be done solely by one agency, institution, or individual. He urged Southern Baptists on all levels to join in the task of language missions.

(Hullum writes for the Home Mission Board.)

### Editor's note

This week's Life and Work Sunday School lesson by Gerald P. Buckley, pastor of Parkway Church, Natchez, was lost in the mail and a substitute copy did not arrive in time for publication.

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Baptist Record



## BSU summer missionary commissioning

Alicia Cottingham, a student at Mississippi State University, and Baptist Student Union summer missionary this year to Maryland, hands out prayer pins to fellow students during the commissioning service for student missionaries at Gulfshore recently. Wearing the pin means the wearer will pray for world missions. Miss Cottingham is one of 62 Mississippi Baptist students who will serve in 30 states and 10 countries as student missionaries. (See related story and photos on page 6.)



# Texas Baptists aid Senegambia

By Orville Scott

DAKAR, Senegal (BP)—The Sahara with its blazing heat and endless sand is marching southward at the rate of a mile a year.

At the southwestern tip of the great desert, fighting to escape its voracious appetite, is Senegambia, where Texas Baptists have begun an evangelistic partnership with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Soon Texas volunteers will bring "the water of life" to nine million people of Senegambia.

Senegambia is a newly-formed confederation of Senegal and the small nation of The Gambia which is surrounded by Senegal except on the Atlantic coast. Senegal is a French speaking country. The Gambia is English speaking. But most of the people also speak a tribal language such as Wolof and Diola.

Senegambia has long been a Moslem land. The Foreign Mission Board estimates there are only a few hundred born-again evangelical Christians in the country. More than 90 percent of the people follow the religion begun by Mohammed about 400 A.D. Five times a day in the cities, one can hear the loudspeakers calling the men to pray to Allah.

Unfortunately, many of the people associate Christianity with drinking alcohol and other practices forbidden by the Moslem religion, but practiced by Catholics, the only long-established non-Moslem group.

There have been few Christian converts in Senegal since Southern Baptists began mission work there in 1969. But in recent years, Southern Baptist missionaries have found a way to share the Christian faith—a

ministry that has been warmly received by the government and the people, said Frank and Sally Cawthon of California who lead a Baptist Center in Senegal's capital city, Dakar.

Housing will be provided for volunteers, but they will need to pay for their travel and food, said Texas Partnership Missions Coordinator Bill Gray.

Other volunteers will have opportunity to share their faith as they teach skills ranging from mechanics and electricity to typing.

(Scott writes for the Baptist General Convention of Texas.)

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

APRIL 12, 1984

Published Since 1877

## Baptist youths cite influence of religion

By Gail Rothwell

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Southern Baptist youths place more importance on the influence of religion in their lives than other youths, according to a recent national survey conducted among 13 denominations and youth-serving agencies, including the Southern Baptist Convention.

Reports from the survey, prepared by the staff of Search Institute, Minneapolis, with funding from the Lilly Endowment, Inc., were presented during a recent national meeting of youth leaders. A total of 8,165 adolescents (5th through 9th grades) and 10,467 of their parents were studied. A composite report and separate comparison reports for each denomination and group were prepared.

Among Southern Baptist youth surveyed, 72 percent indicated religion was either the most important or one of the most important influences in their lives. This compared to 53 percent of other youth.

The survey also showed the belief system of Southern Baptist youth indicates a stronger emphasis on religion as a system of rules, and less emphasis on religion as encouraging concern for others.

Southern Baptist youth reported a higher frequency of prayer at all grade levels and strong reliance on their faith in the living of daily life. Southern Baptist youth are more likely to hold strong beliefs about the wrongness of drinking and lying and are slightly more supportive of spending for nuclear weapons than other youth.

The study also revealed families where parents and children attend church together have fewer domestic problems than families who do not attend church.

Merton P. Strommen, a clergyman and educational psychologist who conducted the overall study, noted in general, American families are stronger and healthier than commonly depicted.

One of the major findings from the Southern Baptist comparison survey is families reported a strong "bond of affection and influence with their children." The report indicated Southern Baptist parents and youth who were active churchgoers maintained a higher degree of communication, affection and concern for each other.

Among Southern Baptists, 71.3 percent of the mothers and 59 percent of the fathers gave their children some type of physical affection every day. From the national composite sample only 66.8 percent of the mothers and 49 percent of the fathers expressed some type of physical affection toward their children.

Conclusions drawn from the report show a stronger parent-child bond led to a lower usage report of drugs

and alcohol by adolescents.

The Search Institute report said, "Southern Baptist parents and youth leaders should be aware of this powerful influence for the good that is theirs and reflect on how this influence might best be employed in the carrying out of God's will for themselves and their children."

Other findings show a high degree of trust regarding the church and its teachings. The summary stated, "They (Southern Baptist parents and children) tend to center much of their social activity around the church, and to shape their beliefs and behavior, at least in part, according to the messages they believe it delivers."

"With this evidence of the power of programs and guidance offered by the church, leadership should be doubly concerned that they show appreciation of, respect for and responsible stewardship of the trust placed on them."

These conclusions were based on statistics which show 95 percent of Southern Baptist parents indicated the church has exerted a positive influence on their child, as compared to only 89 percent of the parents in the composite sample.

The report revealed seven trouble spots among youth "deserving serious thought and reflection." They are: —the nearly 20 percent of the 7th, 8th, and 9th graders who reported they experimented with sexual intercourse;

—the worry expressed by young adolescents about sexual and physical abuse;

—the involvement some young adolescents have with alcohol and marijuana;

—the tension experienced by some families, including family violence with marital conflict;

—the relatively commonplace occurrence of some forms of aggression among adolescents, and

—the social alienation experienced by some youth, particularly boys.

In addition to the SBC, the following denominations and youth-serving agencies sponsored the study: African Methodist Episcopal Church; American Lutheran Church; Baptist General Conference; Churches of God, General Conference; Evangelical Covenant Church; 4-H Extension; Lutheran-Missouri Synod; National Association of Homes for Children; National Catholic Education Association; Presbyterian Church of the United States; United Church of Christ; and the United Methodist Church.

(Gail Rothwell writes for the Sunday School Board.)

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# Editorials..... by don mcgregor

## Mississippi and drinking age

We can be thankful for some aspects of this year's legislative session, and yet we cannot help but be in a quandary concerning other aspects of the session.

For instance, the bill that would have established a lottery died, and it seems that the one that would have paved the way for a referendum on pari-mutuel gambling is dead. That is good. The bill that would have legalized the advertising of wine and liquor died, and that is good; but also failing to make it through this session was the bill that would have raised the legal drinking age for beer and light wine.

We can be thankful for the demise for the first three bills. The death of the fourth one leaves us wondering. Maybe it's just as well that it died, too, for it had been greatly altered, some parts for the good and some parts for the bad, in its brief trip through the Legislature.

This bill started out to raise the legal drinking age to 21. An amendment in the Senate, however, lowered the age to 19, just one year over the present limit. Some good features were added in the Senate in that stric-

ter enforcement provisions were put in. It passed the Senate in that fashion and moved on to the House. In the House it died without ever making a move. It died in a subcommittee without a vote.

People are saying the assignment of the bill to the House Ways and Means Committee was the kiss of death and amounted to manipulation. Some House subcommittee members declared that they would favor the bill but that it was enforcement rather than age that was the problem. But the bill had enforcement provisions in it. They were put in by the Senate when it was amended from 21 to 18. And one of the subcommittee members who opposed the bill has sought to have those enforcement provisions considered now that the age limit will remain at 18. Paul Jones of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission helped to draft the enforcement provisions.

Make no mistake, however; age is the problem. In committee meetings the word is that nobody showed up in opposition to the bill while representatives of a number of organizations, including some for teenagers, were

present to testify in favor of the bill. Yet it died without a vote.

The word is also that if the age limit could be raised from 18 to 21 it would reduce the alcohol related traffic deaths substantially. One person gave the figure of 33 1/3 percent.

There is a movement under way all across the nation to raise the minimum drinking age for all alcoholic beverages to 21. Tennessee took that action this year. Mississippi managed to avoid the movement altogether. Only four states in the United States allow those under 21 to drink legally. We have picked the company we keep. Now Tennessee can worry about their under age teenagers driving into Mississippi to buy beer. We didn't want to worry about ours going to Louisiana.

But maybe it's just as well. The thing to do now is to go to work and be ready to pass a 21-year-old drinking bill next year with enforcement provisions in it. The people want it passed, and the Legislature evidently is ready to pass it. There are a few members of the Legislature who need to understand that. We can spend the next few months making the point known.

## The equal access aspect

The school prayer amendment, which failed to reach a two-thirds vote in the U.S. Senate and thus died, was innocent enough in its language, yet it died because of confusion as to what it meant.

The amendment said that nothing could prohibit individual or group vocal or silent prayer in public school, no person could be required to pray, and no official would compose or mandate prayer. It went on to provide equal access to public buildings

by religious groups.

The confusion came because the amendment did not say that the school authorities, or the state, could not mandate a time of prayer; and the questions which followed that realization were such as, if a time of prayer is established by the school, who is going to determine who leads in the prayer and what the content of it will be?

In Mississippi such questions would hardly raise an eyebrow. In New York they provide frightening concepts.

So the amendment, though it had a majority of the votes, failed by 11 votes to garner the two-thirds majority it needed.

But all is not lost in the effort to provide some sort of direction in the confusion that surrounds the prayer in public school issue. The equal access aspect which was to be found in the Reagan amendment has continued to be alive in bills that are still in the Congress. These are bills sponsored by Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Ore. (S.815) and Rep. Don Bonker, D-Wash. (H.R. 4996).

What these bills would accomplish would be to give secondary school students the same access for student-initiated religious gatherings as would be available to other students who initiate meetings of other non-academic activities. There would be no one telling the students they had to have meetings. There would be no one telling them what the content of their meetings should be. Those who didn't want to go to the meetings would not be faced with having to absent themselves from a regularly scheduled school activity.

The equal access bills seem to fill the needs that have arisen since the

Supreme Court decisions regarding prayer in public schools in 1962 and 1963. The court never did say that students could not pray. It simply said that the government could not make them pray nor tell them how to pray when they did. Lower courts, however, have grossly misinterpreted that decision and have caused all kinds of confusion. Something needs to be done. The equal access bills would do it.

Southern Baptist Convention President Jimmy Draper has announced his support for the equal access bills. In fact, he is concerned about the future of the public school system if the bills do not pass.

These are bills that we can all be happy with. Our congressmen and senators would be glad to hear from us.

## Guest opinion . . .

# "Not weary" on Cooperative Program day

By Jim Powell

In the coming years, Southern Baptists face a greater challenge in missions than ever before. The Home and Foreign Mission boards, as well as other SBC agencies and state conventions, have adopted far-reaching Bold Mission Thrust goals and programs for sharing the gospel with every person in the world by the year 2000. While some of those objectives have been met, others await fulfillment. Southern Baptists must not be-

come "weary in well doing." We can, we must, bring our bold dream to reality. The local church is still the key to the support and success of Bold Mission Thrust.

"Demonstrating My Growing Commitment" is the challenge and goal, as well as the theme, for Cooperative Program Day, April 15, 1984. No individual Christian, church, or institution can carry the good news of Jesus to the world. On

Cooperative Program Day every church member should be encouraged to (1) be faithful in his use of the material possessions God has entrusted to him; (2) support world missions through the Cooperative Program; (3) learn more about the needs and opportunities for sharing the gospel at home and around the world.

The word, *cooperation* means: (Continued on page 7)

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### TNT IN TINSEL



## Guest opinion . . .

# The death of God's Son

By Gerald P. Buckley  
Mark 15:14-39

We are compelled by the calendar to think about the cross. What does the cross mean to you? To some it is merely a lovely piece of jewelry to be worn around the neck. The cross to others is an object on top of a steeple. Others consider the cross to be a gruesome story. The idea of thinking about blood, agony, and suffering is repulsive to them. However, the cross is the very heart of the gospel.

If you leave out the cross, you might as well throw the whole thing out. In the death of Christ we find a demonstration of God's love. Leslie Weatherhead tells in one of his books about being aboard a ship in the Mediterranean Sea. It was so dark he could not see his hands before his eyes. Suddenly a volcano in the distance began to erupt. Fire began coming out of that mountain. For a

moment the whole world seemed to be lighted up. Then the fire began to die down, and it became dark again. For just a few moments, the fire that is constantly burning in the heart of that volcano was revealed. There on that cross in Jerusalem was seen the love that is constantly present in the heart of God. What is God's attitude toward the world? God loves us so much that He allowed Christ to die for our sins.

Something happened that day that forever makes a difference in our relationship with God. The New Testament is certain that something important happened. It does not explain in total detail. The death of Christ goes beyond human explanation. We do know this: our sins helped to nail Him to that cross. The blood of Christ (Continued on page 9)